

# BC REGION FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT (FSA) Tla'amin Nation

Tier 1:  
Home Fire  
Protection



Tier 2:  
Community Fire  
Protection

Tier 3:  
Fire  
Departments



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Canada

## Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Executive Summary	2
Summary of Community Fire Protection	2
Fire Protection Planning Analysis	
Fire Protection Inventory	
Key Considerations for Enhancing Fire Protection Capacity	
Recommendations	
Conclusion	
Appendices	Appendix
Tier 1: Home Fire Safety Assessment	A
Tier 2: Community Fire Prevention Assessment	B
Tier 3: Fire Department Assessment	C
Community Fire Environment and Hazard Risk Assessment	D
Community Fire Protection Snapshot	E

## INTRODUCTION

A Fire Safety Assessment (FSA) aims to provide a community with an overview of their existing fire protection operations and recommendations in order to assist them with enhancing their community's overall level of fire protection. FSAs demonstrate to the community members and the community at large, the importance of developing and maintaining home fire safety programs as well as community fire protection and prevention programs.

Since April 1, 2016, Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) Level of Service Standards (LOSS) for capital infrastructure projects includes projects related to fire protection. ISC BC Region's "Tiered" approach as outlined in the Practical Guide to Fire Protection aligns funding with the LOSS. The FSA and its alignment to the tiered approach will assist ISC in making informed decisions with regard to the type(s) of fire protection and funding support it may offer.

### FIRE PROTECTION TIERS:

**Tier 1: Fire Home Protection:** Addresses fire safety activities that have the greatest potential for preventing fires and saving lives. For example, providing educational and awareness training, distribution and installation of smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, household fire safety and escape plans, fire extinguishers, etc.

**Tier 2: Community Fire Protection:** Focusses on enhancing fire safety education and awareness in communities, including the negotiation of a Municipal/Mutual Type Service Agreement (MTSA) (if possible) for fire protection services. This tier emphasizes community activities such as public education, community fire prevention and annual maintenance and inspection programs that require a greater degree of community organization and support in order to be effective.

**Tier 3: Fire Departments:** The capacity of a community Fire Department is further enhanced when sustainable Tier 1 and 2 prevention activities have been established. This tier highlights several factors such as capacity, recruitment and ongoing operations and maintenance to ensure the long-term sustainability of a fire department.

First Nations are encouraged to work with ISC BC Region's Community Infrastructure directorate to confirm eligibility, funding levels, as well as opportunities to work with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to develop a work plan for implementation. FNESS often plays a key role in supporting First Nations with improving their fire protection activities and programs.

**DISCLAIMER** The information contained in this report is based on observation and subject matter expertise of the assessor and input from the community lead. It is intended to be used as resource information to support communities with their fire protection planning and achievement of goals and objectives. Any ISC decisions regarding funding support for implementation of recommended activities is at the discretion of ISC and will align with its departmental Funding Authorities, Practical Guide to Fire Protection and available resources.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Date of Assessment:** 2024-01-11

**Name of Assessor:** Kathy Ferguson, Don Beer

**Community FSA Contributors:** Fire Chief Byron Harry Deputy Fire Chief Linzy Elliott

Tla'amin Nation is on the Sunshine Coast area of British Columbia. Highway #101 goes through the middle of the community. Band Chief and Council would benefit with participating in a Fire Protections Leadership and Governance Workshop. The development of a Fire Bylaw/ Band Council Resolution, related to the fire prevention in the homes and community should be considered. The Band actions and support of implementing FireSmart principles within the community needs to be celebrated and continued.

The community needs to consider hiring a fulltime paid Fire Chief to oversee and manage the administration and operations of the fire department. The Band must also consider a plan to replace the current fire hall to have room to secure all vehicles and equipment under one roof. This replacement fire would be designed to increase its functionality and flow of the facility.

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

### Tier 1: Home Fire Protection

On January 11, 2024, Fire Services Officer Kathy Ferguson and Fire Service Advisor, Don Beer met with Fire Chief Byron Harry and Deputy Fire Chief Linzy Elliott in person at the Tla'amin Nation Fire Hall to conduct this fire safety assessment for the Tla'amin Nation.

The community has an identified Fire Chief Byron Harry and Deputy Fire Chief Linzy Elliott as the Fire Safety Champions for the community.

The community has approximately 800 residents living in 341 homes.

- Tla'amin does not have an established Fire Bylaw.
- The Band has an annual maintenance program in the community to inspect the interior and exterior of homes. This inspection includes items such as:
  - o Dryer lint cleaning
  - o Chimney cleaning
  - o Testing and installing smoke alarms and changing batteries.
  - o FireSmart assessments along with putting principal concepts in place.
- The Band has a home safety awareness training program and a public awareness in place. These programs have been in place for 4 years.

**Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 1?** Yes

**Fire Protection Champion Name:** Byron Harry Fire Chief , Linzy Elliott Deputy Fire Chief

**Fire Chief Name:** Byron Harry

**Fire Prevention Lead Name:** Linzy Elliott

### Tier 2: Community Fire Protection

- Band Chief and Council have not participated in Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training.
- Band Chief and Council are actively engaged in fire prevention programs.
- All homes have visible addresses (numbering) and all the community streets are signed.
- The Nation has a "Regional Fire Departments' Emergency Services Agreement" (MTSA) between qathet Regional District, City of Powell River, Gillies Bay Improvement District and Van Anda Improvement District.
- Tla'amin has fire insurance on all buildings.
- The Nation has implemented FireSmart fire safety principals and practices in and around the community.
- The Nation has a fire prevention program that has been in place for 1 year.
- Tla'amin Nation Fire Department is exterior certified in fire suppression.
- Tla'amin Nation has a maintenance plan inspect facilities and grounds.
- Tla'amin Nation have a community fire safety committee.

**Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 2?** Yes

### Tier 3: Fire Departments

- Tla'amin Nation has a functioning fire department with 19 active members.
- The Nation has a fire hall that has been added on to on several occasions. the fire hall has poor functionality and flow with all the additions, including the standalone single bay building. The fire department currently has the bush fire truck (F550) stored outdoors.
- The Nation has an approved financial plan for the fire department.
- The Fire Chief position is not a paid position.
- The fire department has a deputy fire chief.
- Tla'amin Fire Department has done an excellent job on attracting and retaining an adequate number of firefighters. Their firefighters are well trained as the fire department is certified as an exterior department. They also have several members who have or are working to obtain their NFP 1001 Firefighter certification.
- With the "Regional Fire Departments' Emergency Services Agreement" in place the participating departments cross train with each other in the region.
- The fire department has fire trucks and equipment that are maintained on a regular basis.
- Tla'amin has water system that is fed by gravity from Tla'amin Lake into a water treatment plant then stored in 3 reservoirs feeding the domestic system including fire hydrants.

**Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 3? Yes**

## FIRE PROTECTION PLANNING ANALYSIS

### Analysis of Community Overall Fire Vulnerability and Impacts:

- The community of Tla'amin Nation is a rural setting that has highway #101 dissecting the community.
- The community has propane delivered through the community.
- 95 % of all community roads are paved.
- There is a single road access/egress in and out of the community.
- The band has:
  - o 24 – Unit Assisted Living building,
  - o 11 – Triplexes
  - o 14 – duplexes
  - o Along with single family residential homes.
- The community has very large commercial and visitor traffic running through it.

## FIRE PROTECTION INVENTORY

### Fire Hall

**Year Constructed:** 1976

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 5

**Number of Firefighters:** 19

**General Condition Rating:** Fair

**Description:** The fire hall has been added on to on several occasions. The fire hall has poor functionality and flow with all the additions, including the standalone single bay building. The fire department currently has the bush fire truck (F550) stored outdoors.

### Fire Boxes

**Year Constructed:**

**Estimated Remaining Life:**

**Number of Fire Boxes:**

**General Condition Rating:**

**Description:**

### Fire Truck/Apparatus

#### Truck

**Year Truck Constructed:** 2020

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 22

**Last Serviced:** 2024-01-01

**General Condition Rating:** New

**Description:** Type II

**Truck**

**Year Truck Constructed:** 1998

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 0

**Last Serviced:** 2024-01-01

**General Condition Rating:** Fair

**Description:** Fort Garry - Commercial 4 Door Freightlines Triple combination engine.

**Truck**

**Year Truck Constructed:** 2008

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 10

**Last Serviced:** 2024-01-01

**General Condition Rating:** Good

**Description:** Ford 4 Door F-550 Bush Truck

**Truck**

**Year Truck Constructed:** 2018

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 20

**Last Serviced:** 2024-01-01

**General Condition Rating:** New

**Description:** Rescue/Command Truck

**Firefighter Equipment**

**Type of Equipment:** SCBA Scott

**Year Purchased:** 2019

**Estimated Remaining Life:** 21

**Expiration Date:** 2043-01-01

**Number of Sets:** 12

**Last Serviced:** 2024-01-01

**General Condition Rating:** New

**Description:** Scott SCBA with 4500psi

**Community Water Supply**

**Adequate Water Supply for Fire Flow:** Yes

**Verified by Fire Suppression Expert:** No

**Number of Hydrants:** 56

**Number of Pump Stations:** 0

**Description:** Tla'amin has water system that is fed by gravity from Tla'amin Lake into a water treatment plant then stored in 3 reservoirs feeding the domestic water system which includes fire hydrants.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENHANCING FIRE PROTECTION CAPACITY**

- Band Chief and Council have not participated in Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training.
- The Fire Chief position is not a paid position.
- The Nation has a fire hall that has been added on to on several occasions. the fire hall has poor functionality and flow with all the additions, including the standalone single bay building. The fire department currently has the bush fire truck (F550) stored outdoors.
- FireSmart applications and principals are being utilized in and around the community.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

## Fire Protection Inventory

- Conduct a Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training for Band Chief and Council.
- Develop a plan to hire a fulltime paid Fire Chief to oversee the administration and operations of the Fire Department.
- Develop a plan for the budget process to replace the current fire hall to have room to secure all vehicles and equipment under one roof, along with increasing its functionality and flow.
- Continue the FireSmart applications and principals within the community.

### Tier 1: Home Fire Protection

FNESS can assist the community in planning and implementing the recommendation below:

- Develop a Bylaw or Band Council Resolution (BCR) which describes the responsibility for Fire Safety in the home.

### Tier 2: Community Fire Protection

FNESS can assist the community in planning and implementing the recommendation below:

- Conduct a Fire Protections Leadership and Governance Workshop for the Chief and Council.

### Tier 3: Fire Departments

- Develop a plan to replace the current fire hall to have room to secure all vehicles and equipment under one roof. This replacement fire would be designed to increase its functionality and flow. The current 2 buildings housing the fire department are in good condition and could be repurposed for other uses within the Nation.
- Based on the size and complexity of the Fire Department along with the numerous certifications and recertifications required a fulltime paid Fire Chief to oversee the administration and operations is recommended.

# TIER 1: HOME FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT

**Tier 1: Addresses fire safety activities that have the greatest potential for preventing fires and saving lives. For example, providing educational and awareness training, distribution and installation of smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, household fire safety and escape plans, fire extinguishers, etc.**

Questions	Responses
Are the Chief and Council, Band Administrators and residents actively engaged in home fire safety activities?	Yes
Has the community identified a Fire Safety Champion?	Yes
Does the community have a By-law and/or BCR in place which describes the responsibility for Home Fire Safety?	No
Are homes equipped with working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers?	Yes
How many homes do not have working smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers?	110
How many homes have fire escape plans?	100
Does the community have an annual maintenance plan/program in place to inspect homes interior fire safety equipment?	Yes
Who is the Fire Safety Champion and/or designated individual who performs inspections?	Byron Harry Fire Chief , Linzy Elliott Deputy Fire Chief
Does the community have an annual maintenance plan/program in place to inspect, remove and clean any hazardous materials from the exterior of the homes i.e.: chimneys, forest fuel/brush, empty propane, tires, etc.?	Yes
How long have your home fire safety activities/programs been in place?	4
Is Home Fire Safety public awareness training and/or workshops provided to community members on an annual basis?	Yes
Does the community have an annual Home Fire Safety public awareness campaign in place?	Yes
Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 1?	Yes
Insert Community Fire Protection Champion Name:	Byron Harry Fire Chief , Linzy Elliott Deputy Fire Chief
Insert Fire Chief Name:	Byron Harry
Insert Fire Prevention Lead Name:	Linzy Elliott

# TIER 2: COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION ASSESSMENT

**Tier 2: Focusses on enhancing fire safety education and awareness in communities, including the negotiation of an MTSA (if possible) for fire protection services. This tier emphasizes community activities such as public education, community fire prevention and annual maintenance and inspection programs that require a greater degree of community organization and support in order to be effective.**

Questions	Responses
Are the Chief, Council and Band Administrators actively engaged in community fire prevention program(s)?	Yes
Has Chief, Council and Band Administrators participated in Fire Protection Leadership Governance training?	No
Has Chief, Council and Band Administrators participated in training on how to establish Home Fire Safety and Community Fire Prevention Programs?	No
Who is the Fire Safety Champion and/or designated individual who performs inspections?	Byron Harry
Does the community have a By-law and/or BCR (Job Description/ Operational Guidelines) in place which describes the responsibility of Chief and Council for Community Fire Prevention?	No
Does the community have access to a 24hr emergency system in place i.e.: 911?	Yes
Is a Municipal/Mutual Type Service Agreement (MTSA) feasible for this community?	Yes
Does the community have a MTSA in place with a neighbouring Fire Department?	Yes
Who does the community have an MTSA with?	qathet Regional District, City of Powell River, Gillies Bay Improvement District and Van Anda Improvement District
Is the community's water system adequate to supply exterior fire suppression activities?	Yes
Do all community homes have visible address numbers?	Yes
Are community streets named with visible name signs?	Yes
Does the community have fire insurance for all Band owned/operated buildings?	Yes
Does the community have a formal community fire prevention program in place?	Yes
How long has the community's fire prevention program been in place?	1
Which level of fire suppression currently exists within the community?	Exterior Fire Department -
Does the community have an annual community fire prevention public awareness campaign in place?	Yes
Does the community have an annual fire safety/prevention awareness program in place at its school?	Yes
Does the community have an annual maintenance plan in place to inspect community facilities and grounds for fire safety risks?	Yes
Does the community have a home fire safety and community fire prevention working group and/or committee?	Yes
Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 2?	Yes

# TIER 3: FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT

**Tier 3: The capacity of a community Fire Department is further enhanced when sustainable Tier 1 & 2 prevention activities have been established. This tier highlights several factors such as capacity, recruitment and ongoing operations and maintenance to ensure the long-term sustainability of a fire department.**

Questions	Responses
Does the community have a fire department?	Yes
Does the community have a fire hall?	Yes
Are the Chief, Council and Band Administrators actively engaged in the fire department's activities?	Yes
Is there a Chief and Council/Band Administrator approved financial management plan in place for the on-going operations and maintenance costs of sustaining a fire department?	Yes
Does the Fire Chief attend the Chief and Council quarterly meetings?	No
Does your fire hall meet current <i>British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structural Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook</i> (the "Playbook") standards?	Yes
Does your Fire Department have a paid Fire Chief position?	No
Does your department have a Deputy Fire Chief?	Yes
How long has the fire department been in place?	1983
Is the fire department currently operational?	Yes
How many firefighters make up the fire department roster?	19
Is the number of firefighters adequate for the community based on the level of fire suppression detailed within the <i>Practical Guide to Fire Protection</i> for BC First Nations?	Yes
Do the firefighters and Fire Chief(s) participate in annual training?	Yes
Does the Fire Department have Operational Guidelines?	Yes
Do the Operational Guidelines incorporate aspects of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards?	Yes
Does your fire department have Operational Guidelines that clearly define roles and responsibilities and/or define level of service identified in the Playbook?	Yes
Does the fire department perform and maintain records related to fire incidents/deaths?	Yes
Does the fire department have a short-term (one (1) to two (2) years) and/or long-term (two (2) to five (5) years) work/training plan?	Yes
Does the fire department have a truck?	Yes
How old is the truck?	3
Is the truck operational?	Yes
Does the fire department have apparatus?	Yes
How old is the apparatus?	2019
Is the apparatus operational?	Yes
Does the fire department have fire protection equipment?	Yes
What type of equipment?	SCBA Scott Hose Appliances Ladders
Is there a maintenance plan for the fire hall, truck and equipment?	Yes
Is the number of sets of equipment adequate for the community based on the level of fire suppression detailed within the <i>Practical Guide to Fire Protection</i> for BC First Nations?	Yes

Does your fire department equipment meet current standards?	Yes
Does the fire department have a recruitment/retention and succession planning strategy and/or plan?	Yes
Are you familiar with the programs FNESS delivers for Tier 3?	Yes

# COMMUNITY FIRE ENVIRONMENT and HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT

	<b>FSA - Scorepad</b>
<b>AGGREGATE SCORE</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Overall Community Risk</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>NOTE: Assess the fire hazard vulnerability level within the community. MAXIMUM SCORE = 500 = Very High Risk</b>	

<b>1. Community Access:</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
Urban = Score 1; Rural = Score 2; Remote = Score 3; Special Access = Score 4	2
What is the % of paved roads (enter % as a whole number i.e. 40% = "40")?	95
Excessive slope or hairpin turns?	No
One Road access or Multiple Routes?	One Road
Winter road access only?	No
Some 4x4 access Required?	No
Alternate Water (Boat / Ferry / Barge) access available?	Yes
Air access (helicopter / plane) available?	Yes
Alternate Rail access available?	No
<b>Sub-Total (out of 100)</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Category Risk Level</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>2. High Occupancy Facilities (Score for high occupancy count)</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
Large Commercial Traffic (Workforce & Customers over 50)	Yes
Large Visitor Traffic (not included in above over 50)	Yes
Large Band Office / Governance Staff (over 50)	Yes
Large School Nominal Roll (over 100)	Yes
Large Recreation Centre / Hall (over 100)	Yes
Theatre Attendees (over 100)	No
Medical Centre Patients (over 100)	No
Nursing Home Staff & Guests (over 100)	No
<b>Sub-Total (out of 100)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Category Risk Level</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>3. Large Facilities (Score points for all Unit(s) if &gt; 100 sq. m. or &gt; 10,000 sq. ft.):</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
Multi-Unit Residences / Apartment Blocks / Row Houses	Yes
Agricultural Buildings (barns, storage buildings, etc.)	No
Commercial Buildings (stores, gas bar & other "for profit")	Yes
Industrial Buildings (manufacturing, transfer station, water / waste water processing, etc.)	No
Institutional Buildings (school, fire hall, etc.)	Yes
Public Works Yards, Motor Pools, Storage Yards, etc.)	Yes

Nursing Home / Care Facility	No
Hospital / Medical Centre(s)	No
Toxic Storage or Accumulation of Flammables (i.e. gas bar; propane depot, etc.)	Yes
<b>Sub-Total (out of 100)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Category Risk Level</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>4. High Risk Activities:</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
Bulk Chemical Storage	No
Sawmill	No
Gas Bar / Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities on Site	Yes
Propane Tank accumulation (both empty & full)	Yes
Hazardous Material Manufacturing Facilities	No
Derelict, abandoned and/or vacant homes	Yes
Derelict Car Accumulation	No
Old Tires & Other Hazardous Waste (i.e. asbestos, radon, lead, mould, paint, white goods, etc.)	No
Transportation of dangerous goods through First Nations Lands	Yes
<b>Sub-Total (out of 100)</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Category Risk Level</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>5. Level of Public Fire Safety Governance &amp; Support:</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
Does the Band have a building / occupancy permit process in place?	Yes
Does the Band have access to an accredited Fire & Building Code inspector?	Yes
Does the Band have a Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) in place (zoning)?	Yes
Does the Band collect fire protection revenue from all non-First Nation and "for profit"?	No
Do all homes comply with all pertinent fire and building code legislation?	No
Is there a hospital within 20 minutes?	Yes
Has all brush, firewood & debris been cleared away from houses?	Yes
<b>Sub-Total (out of 100)</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Category Risk Level</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>239</b>

<b><u>Analysis of Community Overall Fire Vulnerability and Impacts: (to be completed as part of the FSA upon completion of assessment)</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a brief analysis based on responses to above questions.</li> <li>• Provide recommendations for improving the community's risk.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community of Tla'amin Nation is a rural setting that has highway #101 dissecting the community.</li> <li>• The community has propane delivered through the community.</li> <li>• 95 % of all community roads are paved.</li> <li>• There is a single road access/egress in and out of the community.</li> <li>• The band has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 24 – Unit Assisted Living building,</li> <li>o 11 – Triplexes</li> <li>o 14 – duplexes</li> <li>o Along with single family residential homes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The community has very large commercial and visitor traffic running through it.</li> </ul>

# COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION SNAPSHOT

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

**First Nation Name (Band Number):** Tla'amin Nation (FN554)

**On-Reserve Population:** 800

**IR Name(s)(Site Number):** IR1 – Sliammon – on the Strait of Georgia NW of Powell River IR2 – Harwood Island - Strait of Georgia off Texada Island IR3 – Paukeanum - Cortes Island on Westshore near South Tip. IR4 – Toquana – Head of Theodosia Arm, Malaspina Inlet IR5 – Tokenatch - Head of Okeover Arm, Malaspina Inlet IR6 – Kahkayaky - Grace Harbour South side of Gifford Peninsula

**Number of Homes:** 344

**Number Occupied Homes:** 341

**Number Unoccupied/Abandoned Homes:** 3

**Number of Structures: (e.g. community centre, office/administration buildings, outbuildings)** 14

**Last E-ACRS Inspection Year:** 2000

### Profile:

Tla'amin Nation resides just north of the City of Powell River on the sunshine coast of British Columbia, along Highway 101. the Nation is one of the many indigenous Coast Salish tribes inhabiting the Pacific Northwest Coast. Tla'amin Nation people are descendants of a rich heritage with a history that stretches back well over 4000 years into the past. All of their economic and political systems along with their spirituality were based on relationship with the traditional territory of our ancestors and their unique relationship with the land.

The Tla'amin culture today, is a fusion of modern society shaped by traditional cultural influences. They have access to all the benefits of modern technology yet continue to carry forward ancient traditions and knowledge, through their cultural practices and customs, and also expressed through various creative-art forms.

One Heart, One Mind, One Nation.

### FIRE PROTECTION TIER CAPACITY RATING LEVELS

**Tier 1: Home Fire Protection Capacity Rating Level:**

**High**

**Tier 2: Community Fire Protection Capacity Rating Level:**

**Tier 3: Fire Department Capacity Rating Level:**

**High**

### FIRE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD RISK LEVEL

**Fire Environment Hazard Risk Score:**

**Medium**

### Analysis of Community Overall Fire Vulnerability and Impacts

- The community of Tla'amin Nation is a rural setting that has highway #101 dissecting the community.
- The community has propane delivered through the community.
- 95 % of all community roads are paved.
- There is a single road access/egress in and out of the community.
- The band has:
  - o 24 – Unit Assisted Living building,
  - o 11 – Triplexes
  - o 14 – duplexes
  - o Along with single family residential homes.
- The community has very large commercial and visitor traffic running through it.

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

### Fire Protection Inventory

- Schedule a Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training for Band Chief and Council to participate in.
- Based on the size and complexity of the Fire Department along with the numerous certifications and recertifications required a fulltime paid Fire Chief to oversee the administration and operations is recommended.
- Develop a plan to replace the current fire hall to have room to secure all vehicles and equipment under one roof. This replacement fire would be designed to increase its functionality and flow.
- Continue the good work on applying FireSmart applications and principals in and around the community.

### Tier 1: Home Fire Protection

On January 11, 2024, Fire Services Officer Kathy Ferguson and Fire Service Advisor, Don Beer met with Fire Chief Byron Harry and Deputy Fire Chief Linzy Elliott in person at the Tla'amin Nation Fire Hall to conduct this fire safety assessment for the Tla'amin Nation.

The community has an identified Fire Chief Byron Harry and Deputy Fire Chief Linzy Elliott as the Fire Safety Champions for the community.

The community has approximately 800 residents living in 341 homes.

- Tla'amin does not have an established Fire Bylaw.
- The Band has an annual maintenance program in the community to inspect the interior and exterior of homes. This inspection includes items such as:
  - o Dryer lint cleaning
  - o Chimney cleaning
  - o Testing and installing smoke alarms and changing batteries.
  - o FireSmart assessments along with putting principal concepts in place.
- The Band has a home safety awareness training program and a public awareness in place. These programs have been in place for 4 years.

### Tier 2: Community Fire Protection

- Band Chief and Council have not participated in Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training.
- Band Chief and Council are actively engaged in fire prevention programs.
- All homes have visible addresses (numbering) and all the community streets are signed.
- The Nation has a "Regional Fire Departments' Emergency Services Agreement" (MTSA) between qathet Regional District, City of Powell River, Gillies Bay Improvement District and Van Anda Improvement District.
- Tla'amin has fire insurance on all buildings.
- The Nation has implemented FireSmart fire safety principals and practices in and around the community.
- The Nation has a fire prevention program that has been in place for 1 year.
- Tla'amin Nation Fire Department is exterior certified in fire suppression.
- Tla'amin Nation has a maintenance plan inspect facilities and grounds.
- Tla'amin Nation have a community fire safety committee.

### Tier 3: Fire Departments

- Tla'amin Nation has a functioning fire department with 19 active members.
- The Nation has a fire hall that has been added on to on several occasions. the fire hall has poor functionality and flow with all the additions, including the standalone single bay building. The fire department currently has the bush fire truck (F550) stored outdoors.
- The Nation has an approved financial plan for the fire department.
- The Fire Chief position is not a paid position.
- The fire department has a deputy fire chief.
- Tla'amin Fire Department has done an excellent job on attracting and retaining an adequate number of firefighters. Their firefighters are well trained as the fire department is certified as an exterior department. They also have several members who have or are working to obtain their NFP 1001 Firefighter certification.
- With the "Regional Fire Departments' Emergency Services Agreement" in place the participating departments cross train with each other in the region.
- The fire department has fire trucks and equipment that are maintained on a regular basis.
- Tla'amin has water system that is fed by gravity from Tla'amin Lake into a water treatment plant then stored in 3 reservoirs feeding the domestic system including fire hydrants.

## PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a Fire Protection Leadership and Governance Workshop training for Band Chief and Council.
- Develop a plan to hire a fulltime paid Fire Chief to oversee the administration and operations of the Fire Department.
- Develop a plan for the budget process to replace the current fire hall to have room to secure all vehicles and equipment under one roof, along with increasing its functionality and flow.
- Continue the FireSmart applications and principals within the community.